

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

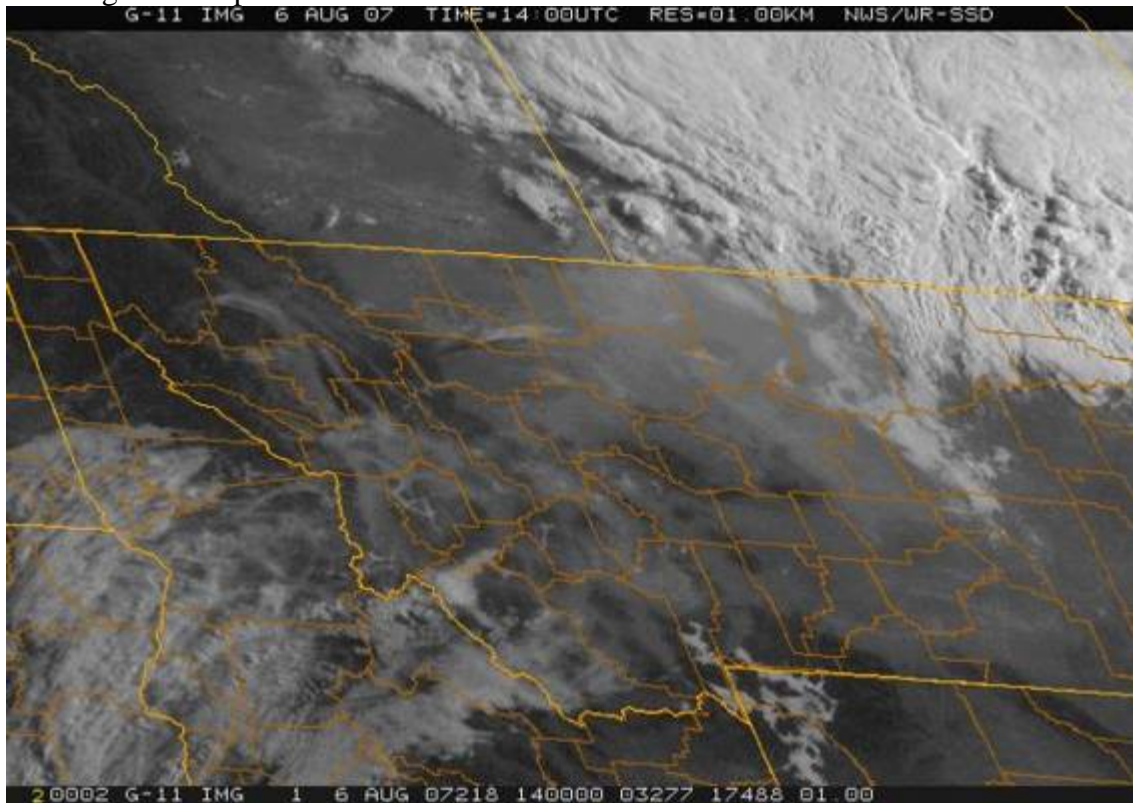
August 06 2007

10:00 AM Monday

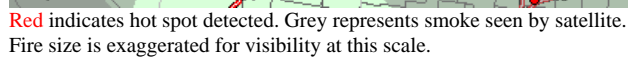
Current Situation

Smoke has settled into the valleys of western Montana this morning, trapped under strong inversions. [UNHEALTHY](#) levels of smoke are currently impacting, Whitefish, Kalispell, Polson, Ronan, Missoula, Hamilton, and the Seeley/Swan valley. [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#) levels are present in Helena Butte, and Great Falls. [MODERATE](#) smoke is impacting Bozeman, Choteau, Augusta, and Lewistown. Overall, the smoke aloft does not seem as thick as previous days as fire activity levels yesterday were substantially lower than Saturday's firestorms. Conditions in most of the valley areas should improve later this morning but local impacts will still remain a problem. Drier and windier conditions are forecast today which will likely increase fire levels this afternoon and evening. See the forecast below. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

<u>HAZARDOUS</u>	
<u>VERY UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY</u>	Whitefish T8 Kalispell T8 Missoula T24 Polson T8 Ronan T8 Seeley/Swan valley Hamilton (est)
<u>UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS</u>	Helena T8 Butte T8 Great Falls Vis(8)
<u>MODERATE</u>	Choteau T8 Bozeman Vis(5) Lewistown Vis(1) Augusta T8

T1(x)	One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x)	Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24	24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x)	Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm)	Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est)	estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

West and southwest winds today will continue to funnel smoke into the state from Idaho and send plumes to the east of the active fires in the state. General haziness will persist over most areas but the dense smoke trapped near the surface in the mountain valleys should thin out noticeably by late morning to early afternoon. Residents under the plume aloft in eastern Montana will notice smoke at the surface intermittently through the morning as the smoke mixes down. Red Flag warning have been issued for gusty winds later today and fire activity could increase substantially this afternoon and evening. This will cause the smoke levels nearer the active fires to increase again later tonight through tomorrow morning. Residents near active fires need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

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